



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tongass National Forest
Alaska Region

Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger
District
3031 Tongass Avenue
Ketchikan, AK 99901-5743
907-225-2148

File Code: 1950
Date: January 29, 2020

Dear Planning Participant:

The Tongass National Forest is seeking comments on a proposal to authorize surface exploration activities on the Cleveland Peninsula near Helm Bay within the Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest. In September 2019, Agnico Eagle (USA) Limited, a Canada-based gold producer with mining operations in the United States, filed a plan of operation with the Forest Service proposing a surface exploration program in the Helm Bay area for the 2020 field season.

Scoping Information for the proposed Helm Bay Exploration Project (Enclosure) as well as other project information is also available on the project's webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56959>

To be most helpful, comments should be received no later than February 14, 2020. Your input is important and will help the project interdisciplinary team identify and address issues and concerns related to the proposed Helm Bay Exploration Project.

Please email your comments to SM.FS.AtkmComments@usda.gov and include *Helm Bay Exploration Project* in the subject line. Written comments can also be mailed to Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger District, Attn: Helm Bay Exploration Project, 3031 Tongass Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901, or hand delivered to the Ketchikan Misty Fjords Ranger Station, Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., except for Federal holidays.

For more information, contact Aaron Steuerwald, Team Leader at (907) 228-4123 or aaron.steuerwald@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



SUSAN A. HOWLE
District Ranger

Enclosure (1) Scoping Information
cc: Matthew Reece, Norman Skan

